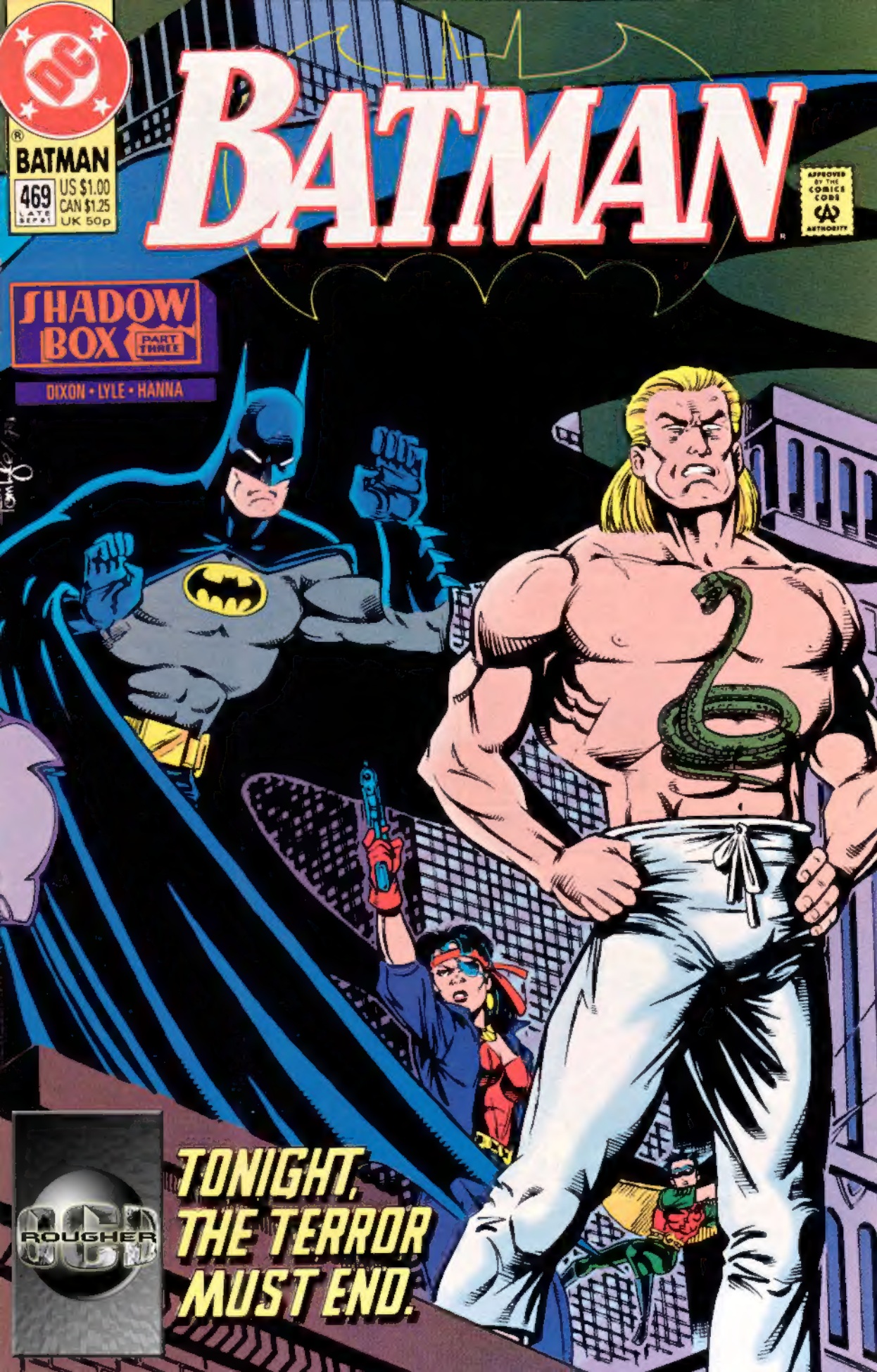
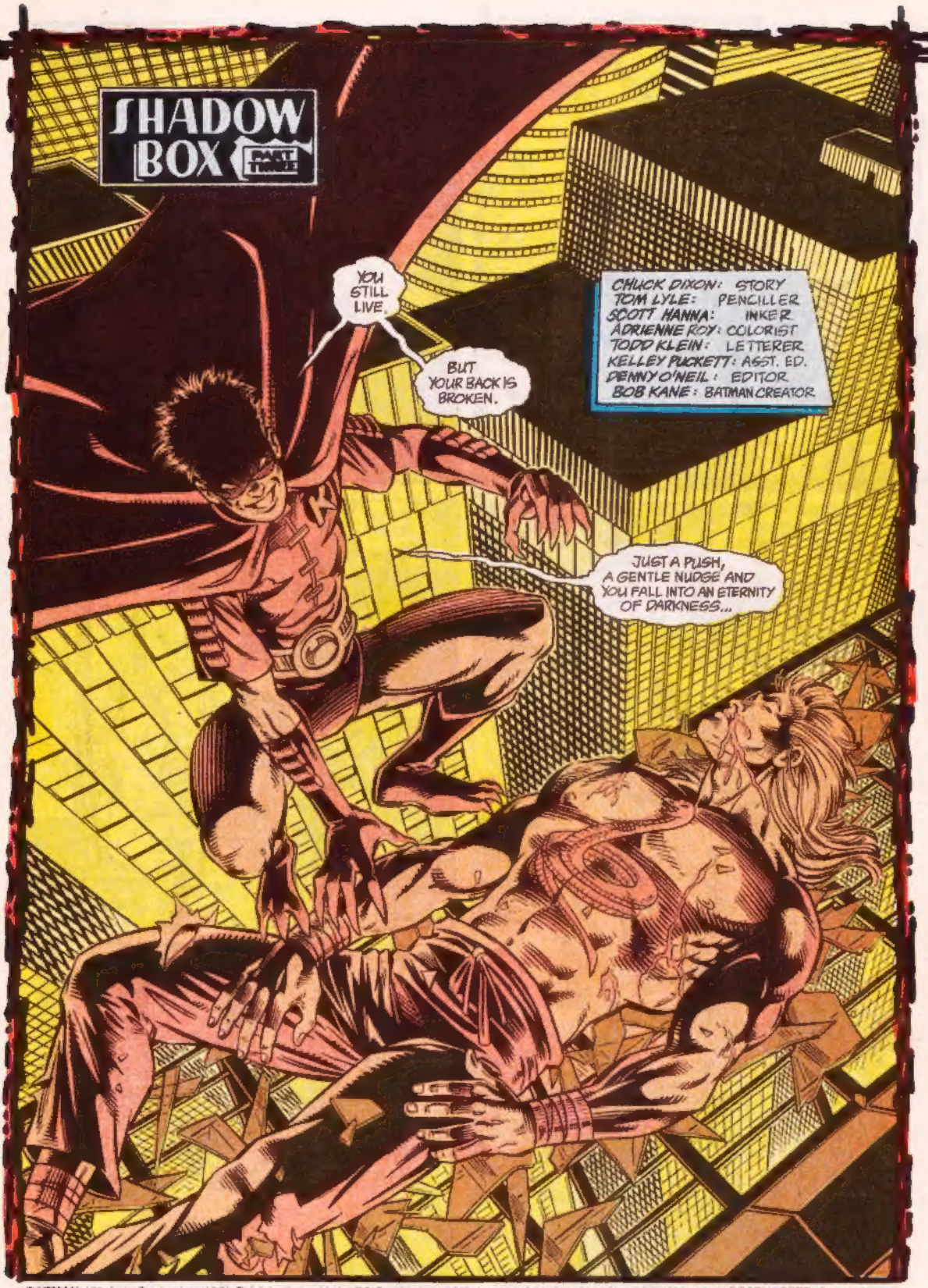

BATMAN
BATMAN
469
US $1.00
CAN $1.25
UK 50p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SHADOW BOX
PART THREE
DIXON • LYLE • HANNA
TONIGHT, THE TERROR MUST END.
ROUGHER


SHADOW BOX
PART THREE
YOU STILL LIVE.
BUT YOUR BACK IS BROKEN.
JUST A PUSH, A GENTLE NUDGE AND YOU FALL INTO AN ETERNITY OF DARKNESS...
CHUCK DIXON: STORY
TOM LYLE: PENCILLER
SCOTT HANNA: INKER
ADRIENNE ROY: COLORIST
TODD KLEIN: LETTERER
KELLEY PUCKETT: ASST. ED.
DENNY O'NEIL: EDITOR
BOB KANE: BATMAN CREATOR

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SO MUCH MORE FITTING THAT YOU LIVE...
...THE LIFE OF A LIVING CORPSE.
NO....

GET AWAY FROM ME!

THERE'S SOMEONE HERE. WHO IS IT?
IT'S ONLY ME, SIR EDMUND. YOUR LOYAL LYNX.
YOU FELL ASLEEP. YOU WERE DREAMING.

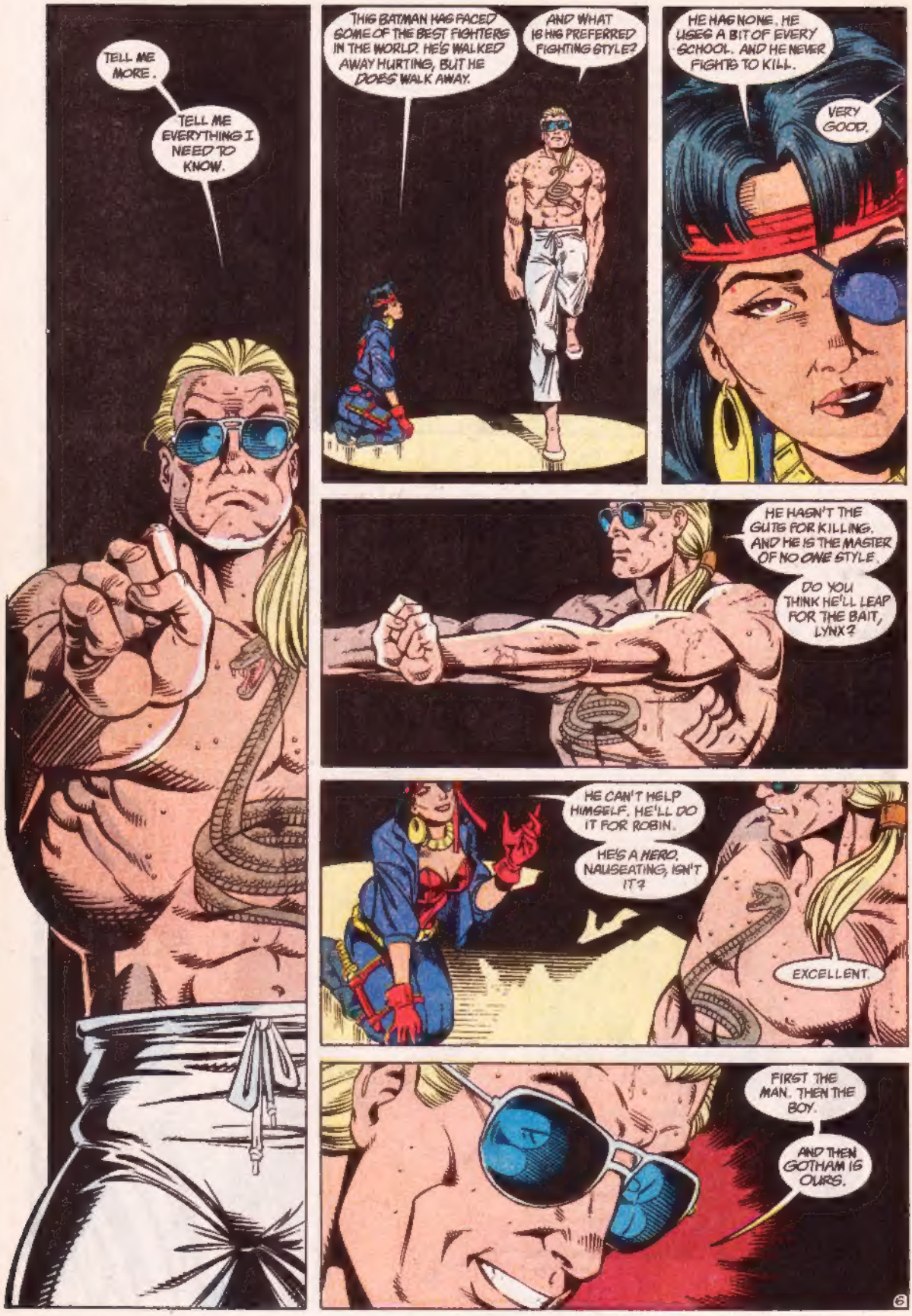
WAS IT ROBIN?
THE BOY. THE DAMNABLE BOY.
HE HAUNTS ME. HE WON'T LET ME BE. HE SPARED MY LIFE AND NOW HE POSSESSES ME.

HELP ME FIND HIM, LYNX. HELP ME EXPUNGE HIM FROM MY SLEEP.
I WILL, DEAREST EDMUND.
YOU REST AND I'LL BRING HIM TO YOU.

A PLACE OF PERPETUAL NIGHT.
I CAN WORK HERE AT ANY HOUR AND KNOW THAT I WILL BE WRAPPED IN DARKNESS.
I LOSE MYSELF FOR HOURS. I HAVE NO IDEA OF THE PASSAGE OF TIME.
MASTER BRUCE?
WHAT PRETENSE ARE YOU USING NOW TO CHECK UP ON ME, ALFRED?
A LITTLE DUSTING? MAYBE YOU WANT TO ROTATE THE TIRES ON THE BATMOBILE?
PRETENSE? WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN, SIR?

I BROUGHT YOU A CHOICE. SOME COFFEE IF YOU CHOOSE TO WORK LONGER.
A GLASS OF HERB TEA SHOULD YOU DECIDE TO EXERCISE GOOD SENSE AND GO TO SLEEP. YOU DO HAVE SPRAINED RIBS THAT NEED MENDING.
COFFEE. BLACK. I STILL HAVE SOME THINKING TO DO.
THE DEAD BIRD?
IT'S A WARNING. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING MORE TO THIS.
EMERALDS. PEARLS. RUBIES. A RATHER EXPENSIVE WARNING.
IF THEY'RE GENUINE.
THEY CERTAINLY LOOK REAL.

THOSE GEMS ARE GENERALLY ASSOCIATED WITH AGIA.
THE NAME OF THE CONTAINER SHIP THAT BROUGHT SIR EDMUND DORRANCE'S CASH FORTUNE TO GOTHAM...
PACIFIC JEWEL:
IT IS MORE THAN A WARNING--IT'S AN INVITATION.
THE PACIFIC JEWEL WAS AUCTIONED OFF LAST MONTH BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.
IT'S STILL BERTHED AT PIER SIX-ELEVEN, GOTHAM HARBOR. THE BUYER WAS MALAY LTD., A SHIPPING FIRM OUT OF MOSAIMENGUAD.
MALAY LTD. IS OWNED BY ASIAN CONSOLIDATED, WHICH IN TURN IS A SUBSIDIARY OF TRANS CHEMICAL WHICH IS OWNED BY WORLDWIDE COMMODITIES.
SOMEHOW, THE SHOCK OF THE FALL, HIS PSYCHOSIS, HE'S FORGOTTEN SHIVA AND BLAMES ROBIN ENTIRELY.
SIR EDMUND IS CHALLENGING ME. I'M THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN HIM AND HIS REVENGE ON ROBIN.
THE CEO OF WORLDWIDE IS THE "LATE" SIR EDMUND DORRANCE.
ROBIN TELLS ME THAT IT WAS LADY SHIVA THAT CAUGHT DORRANCE TO PLUNGE TO HIS "DEATH."
NO COFFEE, BRUCE?
I'LL NEED MY SLEEP.
NO MATTER HOW THIS ENDS, IT ENDS TONIGHT.


TELL ME MORE.
TELL ME EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW.
THIS BATMAN HAS FACED SOME OF THE BEST FIGHTERS IN THE WORLD. HE'S WALKED AWAY HURTING, BUT HE DOES WALK AWAY.
AND WHAT IS HIS PREFERRED FIGHTING STYLE?
HE HAS NONE. HE USES A BIT OF EVERY SCHOOL. AND HE NEVER FIGHTS TO KILL.
VERY GOOD.
HE HASN'T THE GUTS FOR KILLING. AND HE IS THE MASTER OF NO ONE STYLE.
DO YOU THINK HE'LL LEAP FOR THE BAIT, LYNX?
HE CAN'T HELP HIMSELF. HE'LL DO IT FOR ROBIN.
HE'S A HERO. NAUSEATING, ISN'T IT?
EXCELLENT.
FIRST THE MAN. THEN THE BOY.
AND THEN GOTHAM IS OURS.

I WANT A RING THROWN AROUND CHINATOWN. I WANT THE STREETS EMPTY AFTER NINE O'CLOCK.
BUT COMMISSIONER, YOU'RE TALKING MARTIAL LAW.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT AGAIN.
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR "MARTIAL LAW," "CURFEW" OR "POLICE STATE" FROM ANY ONE OF YOU.
IF I DO, THERE'S A LONELY LITTLE PRECINCT OUT ON HARBORPOINT THAT ALWAYS NEEDS WARM BODIES.
A LITTLE PEP TALK FOR THE TROOPS, COMMISH?
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE MAYOR'S PRESS CONFERENCE?
WHAT'S HE GOING TO SAY? YOU'RE THE MAN IN CHARGE.
SO HOW ABOUT IT, GORDON? ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LET CHINATOWN BURN TO THE GROUND? IS THAT HOW YOU PLAN TO STOP THE GANG WAR?
GET THAT CAMERA OUT OF MY FACE.
YOU'RE ON POLICE PROPERTY AND YOU'RE INTERFERING WITH MY OPERATIONS.
THAT WASN'T REAL TACTFUL.
I'M FRESH OUT OF TACT.

IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN GET YOU, TIM?
HOW ABOUT A NEW BRAIN, ALFRED?
TROUBLE WITH YOUR STUDIES?
I GUESS BRUCE IS RIGHT. I WAS GETTING BEHIND.
HAS HE...?
HE SLEPT THE DAY THROUGH AND HAS ALREADY LEFT THE PREMISES.
OH.
HE'S SAVING GOTHAM FROM A CRIME WAVE AND I'M SITTING HERE WITH CHEMISTRY HOMEWORK.
A BREAK MIGHT BE HELPFUL.
I HAVE TO HAVE THIS DONE BY THE END OF THE WEEK, BUT THESE EQUATIONS DON'T SEEM TO WANT TO BREAK DOWN FOR ME.
AND I'M NOT GETTING MUCH HELP FROM THIS DESKTOP.
PERHAPS YOU NEED A NEW COMPUTER RATHER THAN A NEW BRAIN.
A NEW COMPUTER?
WHY NOT?

BRUCE WON'T MIND ME ACCESSING THE MAINFRAME IN THE BATCAVE TO HELP ME WITH A LITTLE CHEMISTRY.
•MAINFRAME ACCESS
•PASSWORD CONFIRMED
•THERE IS DATA IN MEMORY
I'D BETTER SEE WHAT THIS IS BEFORE I DUMP IT.
HUH?
PACIFIC JEWEL
R
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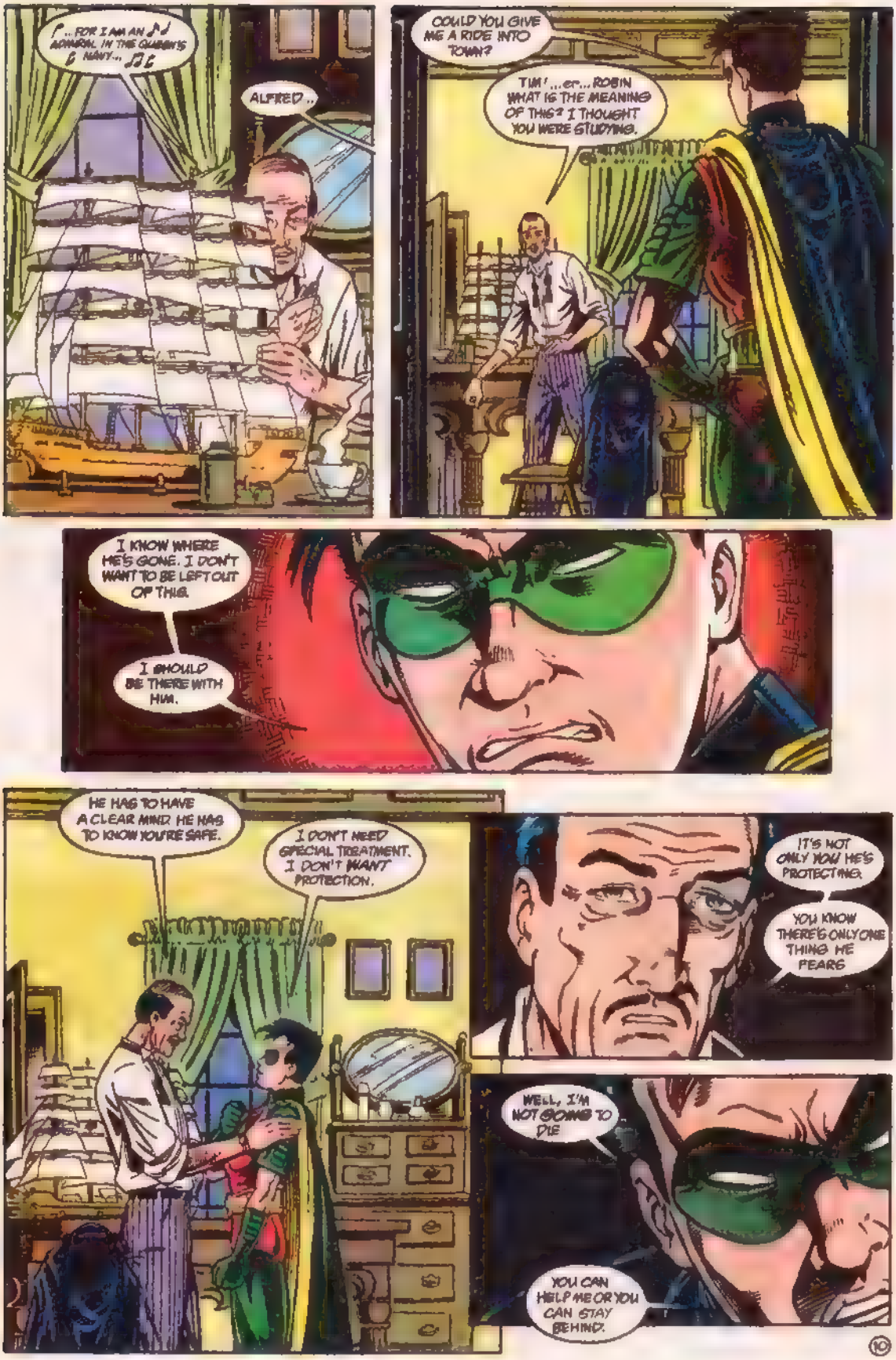
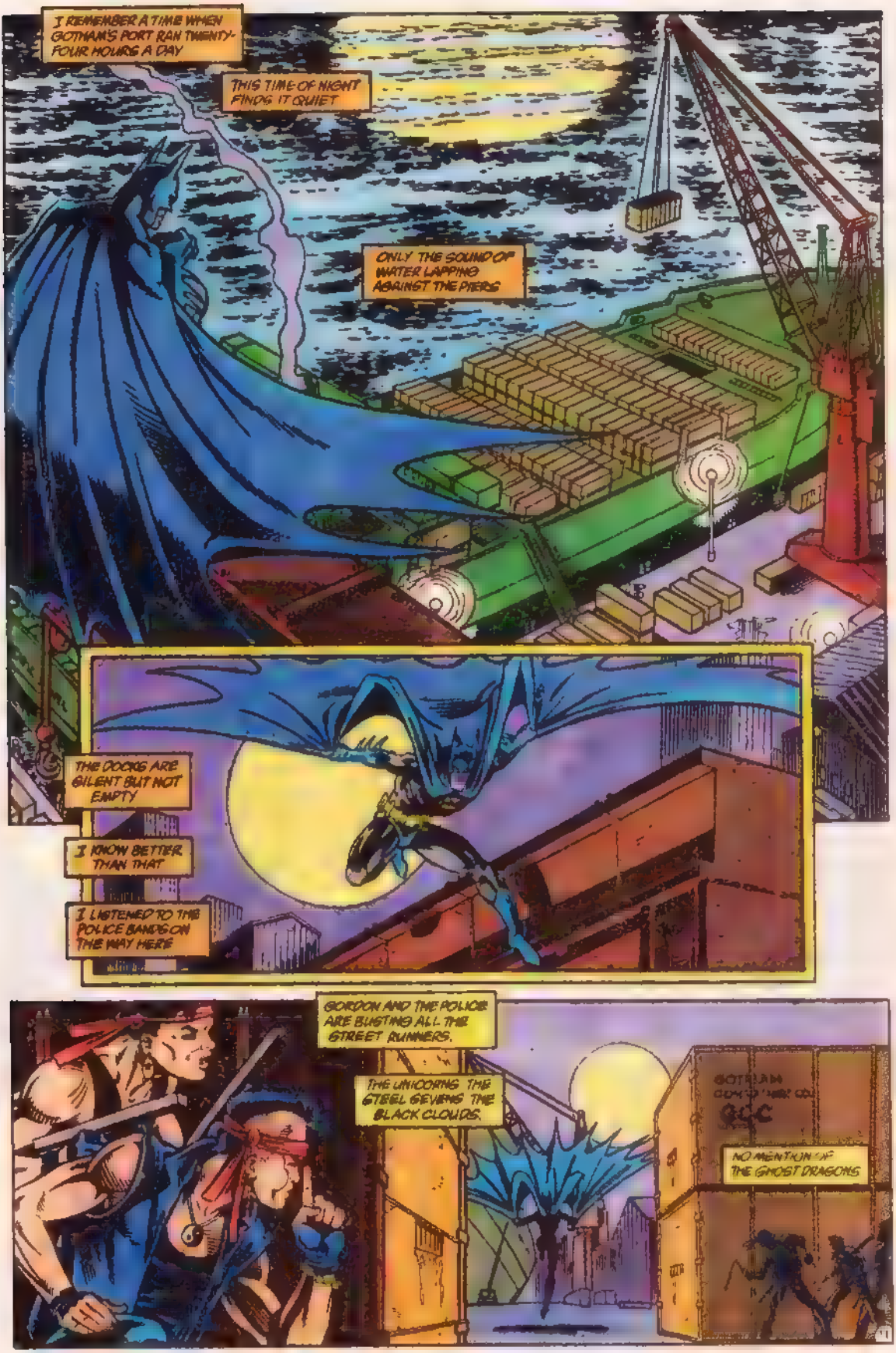
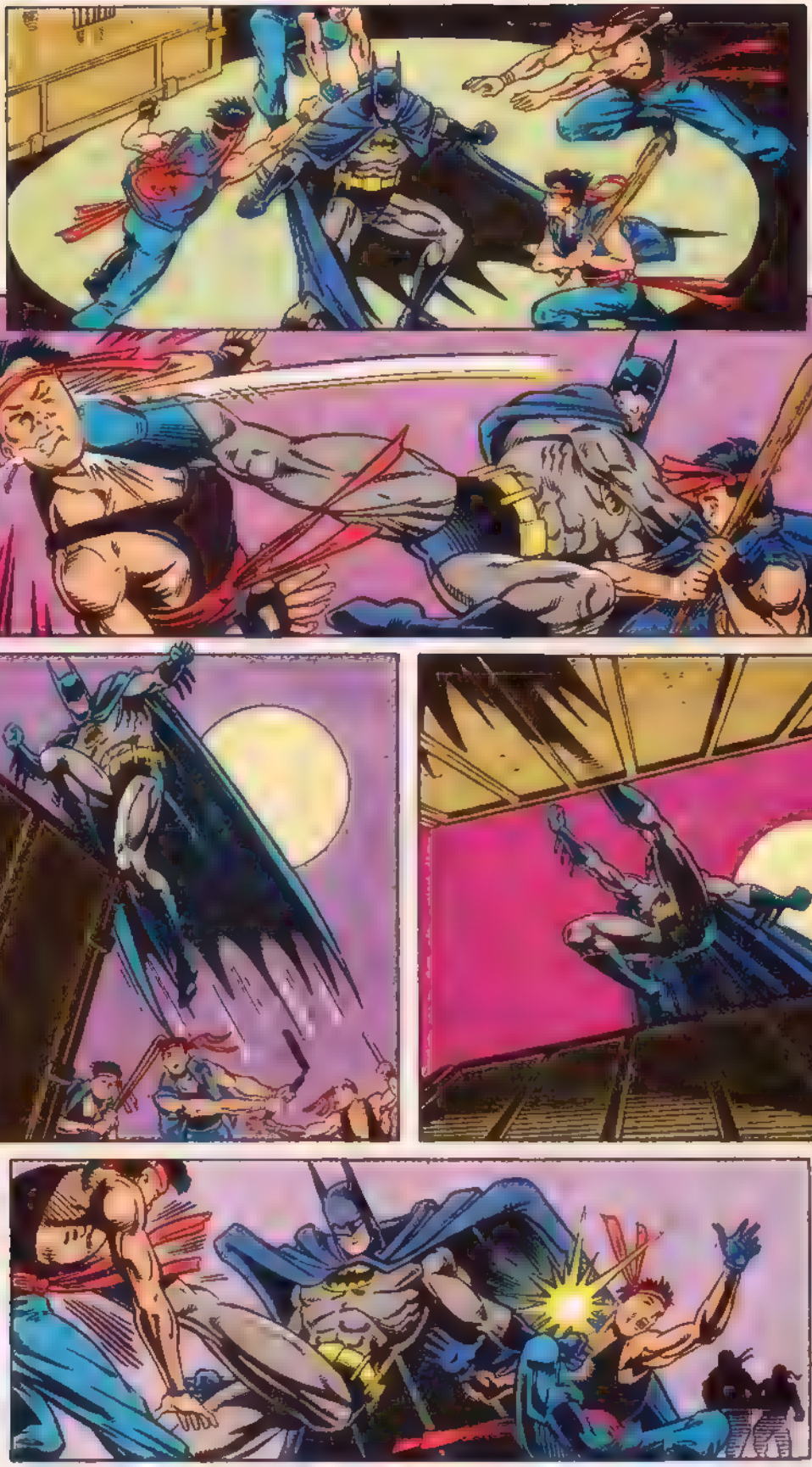
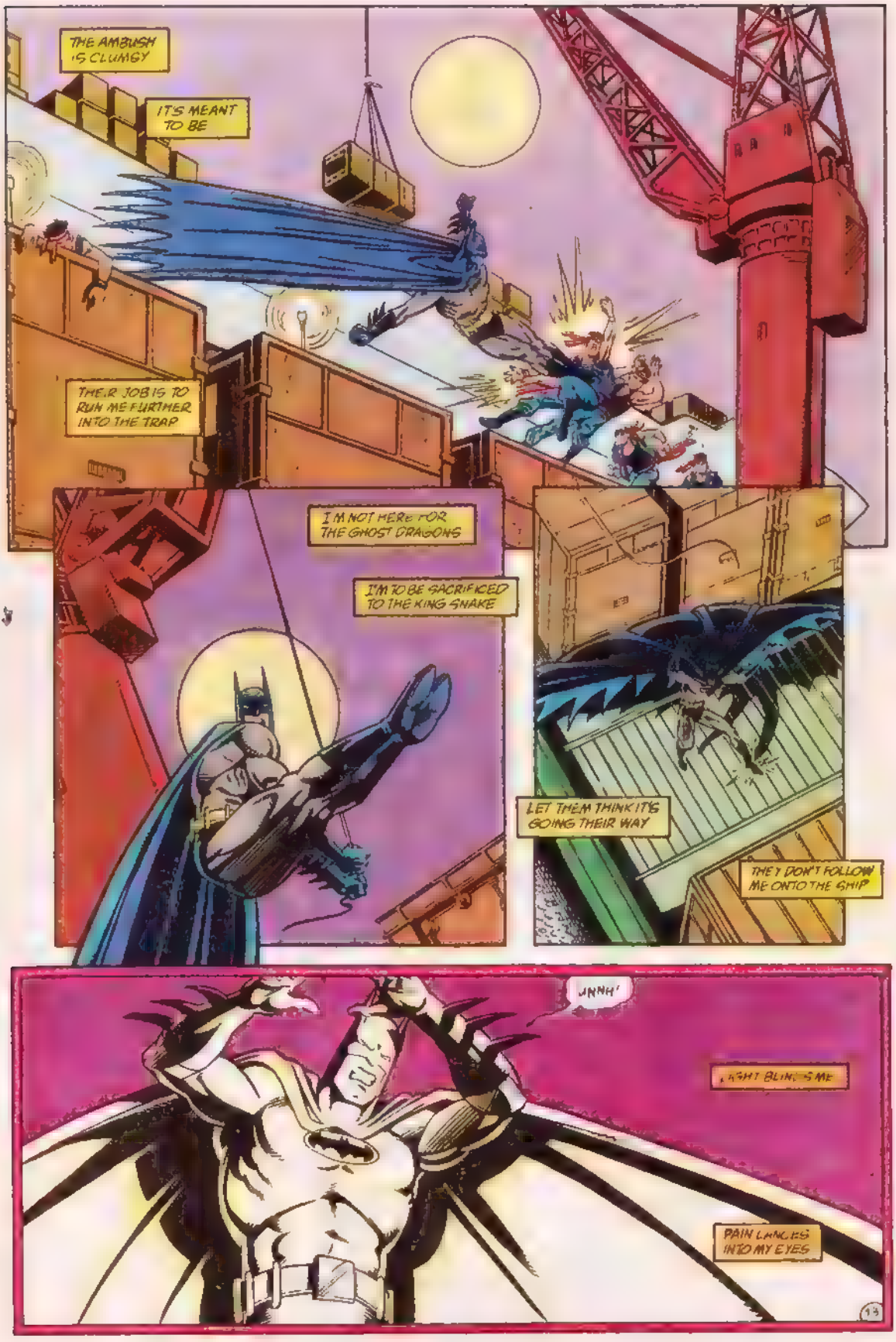
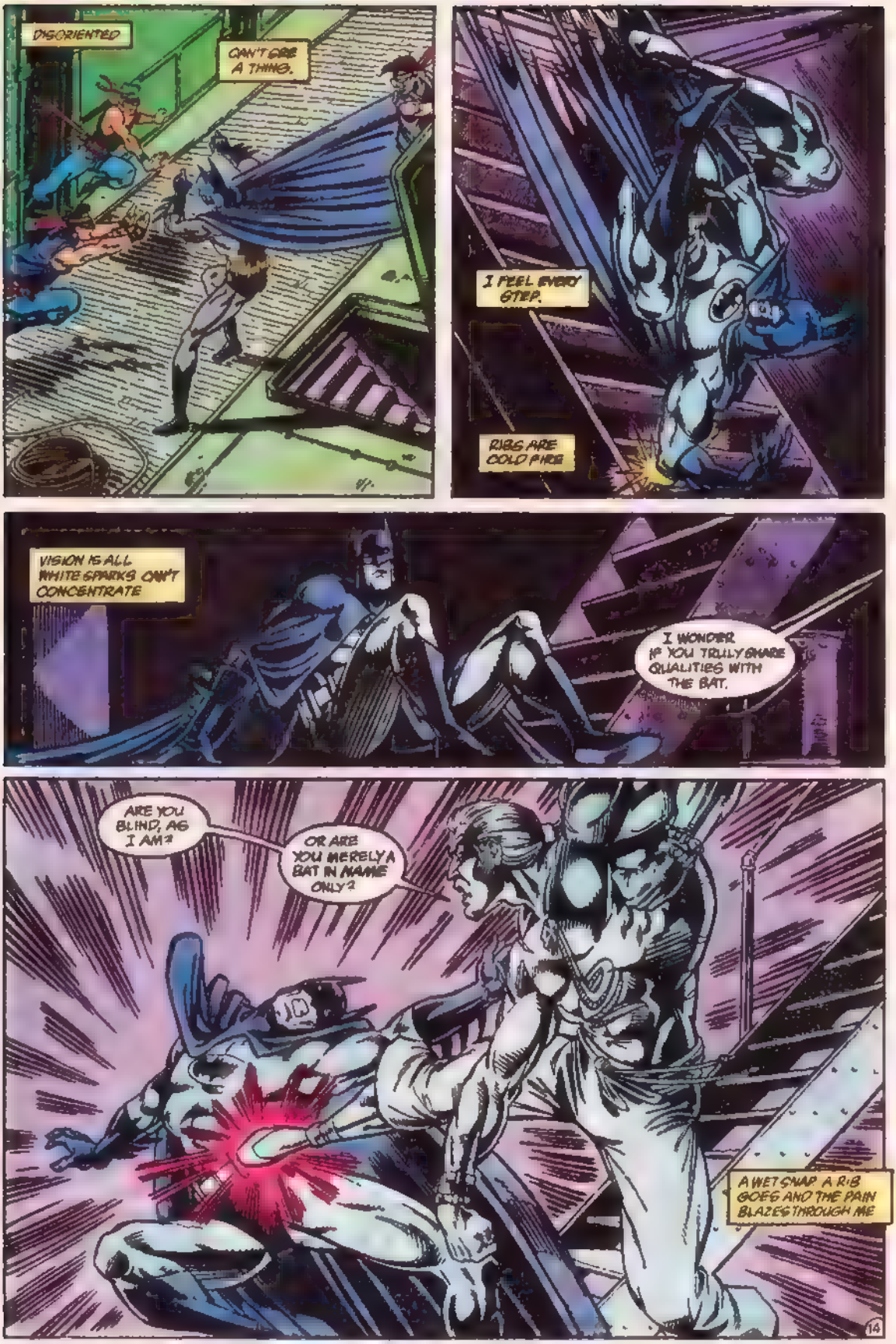

...FOR I AM AN ADMIRAL IN THE QUEEN'S NAVY...
ALFRED..
COULD YOU GIVE ME A RIDE INTO TOWN?
TIM!...er...ROBIN WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS? I THOUGHT YOU WERE STUDYING.
I KNOW WHERE HE'S GONE. I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT OUT OF THIS.
I SHOULD BE THERE WITH HIM.
HE HAS TO HAVE A CLEAR MIND. HE HAS TO KNOW YOU'RE SAFE.
I DON'T NEED SPECIAL TREATMENT. I DON'T WANT PROTECTION.
IT'S NOT ONLY YOU HE'S PROTECTING.
YOU KNOW THERE'S ONLY ONE THING HE FEARS
WELL, I'M NOT GOING TO DIE
YOU CAN HELP ME OR YOU CAN STAY BEHIND.


I REMEMBER A TIME WHEN GOTHAM'S PORT RAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY
THIS TIME OF NIGHT FINDS IT QUIET
ONLY THE SOUND OF WATER LAPPING AGAINST THE PIERS
THE DOCKS ARE SILENT BUT NOT EMPTY
I KNOW BETTER THAN THAT
I LISTENED TO THE POLICE BANDS ON THE WAY HERE
GORDON AND THE POLICE ARE BUSTING ALL THE STREET RUNNERS.
THE UNHOOKING THE STEEL SEVENS THE BLACK CLOUDS.
NO MENTION OF THE GHOST DRAGONS




THE AMBUSH IS CLUMSY
IT'S MEANT TO BE
THEIR JOB IS TO RUN ME FURTHER INTO THE TRAP
I'M NOT HERE FOR THE GHOST DRAGONS
I'M TO BE SACRIFICED TO THE KING SNAKE
LET THEM THINK IT'S GOING THEIR WAY
THEY DON'T FOLLOW ME ONTO THE SHIP
UNNH!
LIGHT BLINDS ME
PAIN LANCES INTO MY EYES


DISORIENTED
CAN'T SEE A THING.
I FEEL EVERY STEP.
RIBS ARE COLD FIRE
VISION IS ALL WHITE SPARKS CAN'T CONCENTRATE
I WONDER IF YOU TRULY SHARE QUALITIES WITH THE BAT.
ARE YOU BLIND, AS I AM?
OR ARE YOU MERELY A BAT IN NAME ONLY?
A WET SNAP. A RIB GOES AND THE PAIN BLAZES THROUGH ME
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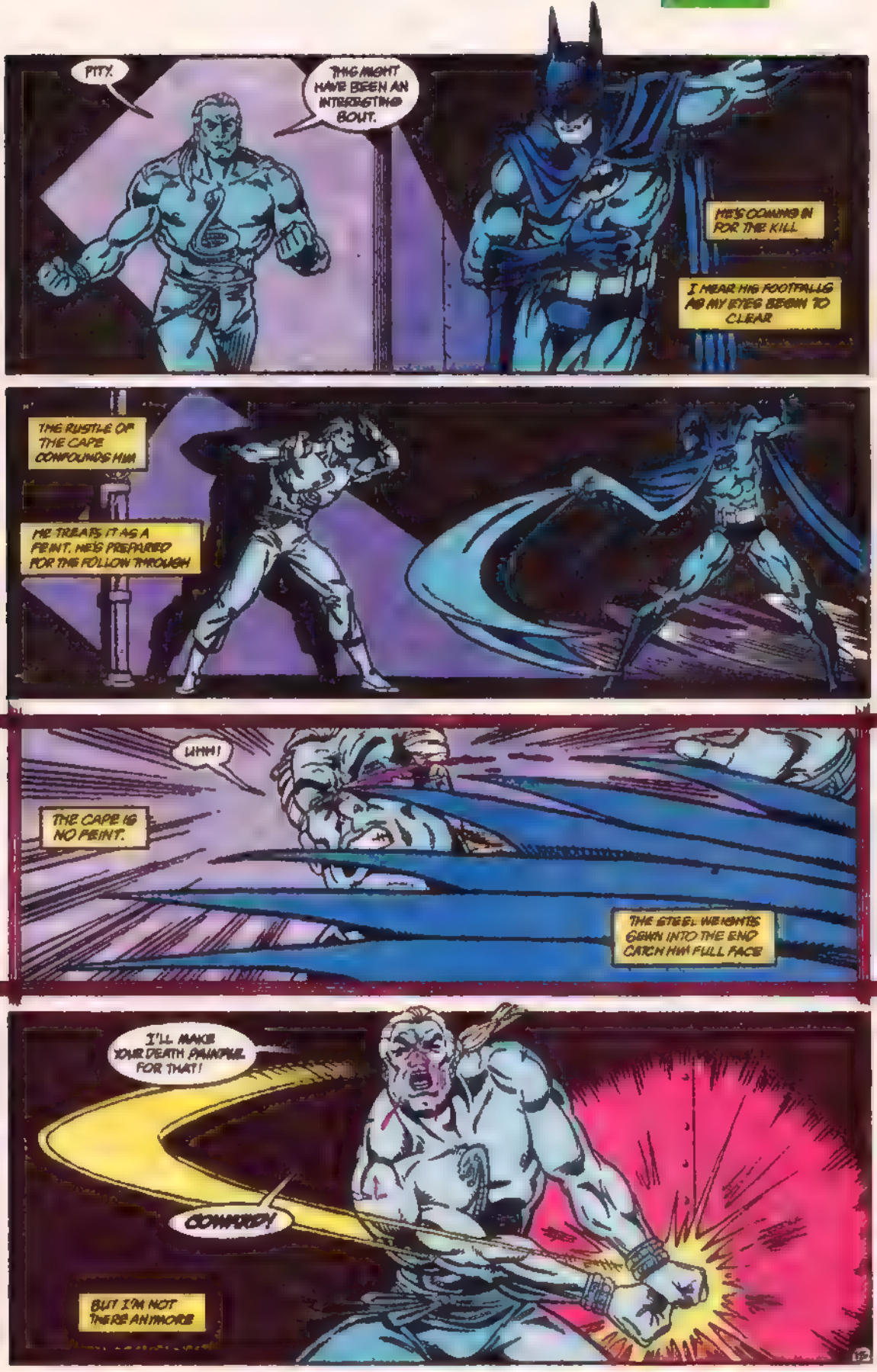
PITY.
THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN INTERESTING BOUT.
HE'S COMING IN FOR THE KILL
I HEAR HIS FOOTFALLS AS MY EYES BEGIN TO CLEAR
THE RUSTLE OF THE CAPE CONFOUNDS HIM
HE TREATS IT AS A FEINT. HE'S PREPARED FOR THE FOLLOW THROUGH
UHHH!
THE CAPE IS NO FEINT.
THE STEEL WEIGHTS SEWN INTO THE END CATCH HIM FULL FACE
I'LL MAKE YOUR DEATH AGONIZE FOR THAT!
OOMPHH!
BUT I'M NOT THERE ANYMORE

THE BOY, BATMAN. WHERE IS HE?
VISION CLEARING WHITE SPARKS ARE GONE
YOU FIRST, SIR EDMUND
HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THE GRAVE?
OH, I NEVER DIED.
I WAS LEFT TO DIE BY YOUR YOUNG WARD
DID YOUR BOY WONDER TELL YOU THAT HE'S A MURDERER?
HE TRICKED ME THEN ATTACKED FROM BEHIND
I WAS AT HIS MERCY, DANGLING FROM A GREAT HEIGHT HELPLESS
HE CAUSED ME TO FALL AND GLOATED OVER ME WHILE I LAY WITH A BROKEN BACK
YOUR PRECIOUS ROBIN SAVORED MY AGONY
BUT SIX MONTHS OF TORTURE AND MY SPINE REINFORCED WITH STEEL RODS AND I RETURN FOR HIM
WHERE IS HE, BATMAN?
16

YOU WANT ROBIN? THEN YOU GO THROUGH ME FIRST.
OH... HOW I PRAYED YOU WOULD SAY THAT.
KING SNAKE THINKS HE HAS ME.
HE THINKS THE DARK IS ALL THE ADVANTAGE HE NEEDS.
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY, RISKED EVERYTHING FOR NOTHING.
I TAKE THAT ADVANTAGE AWAY FROM HIM.
LIGHT AMPLIFYING GOGGLES LET ME SEE IN THE INFRARED.
17

YOU'RE ON A FOOL'S ERRAND, SIR EDMUND
IT WASN'T ROBIN WHO LEFT YOU FOR DEAD
YOU HAVE YOUR PLAYERS CONFUSED. ROBIN SPARED YOU IT WAS LADY SHIVA WHO THREW YOU TO YOUR DEATH.
IT WAS BANE WHO HUMILIATED YOU.
THE WOMAN... SHIVA...IT...IT...

THOUGH I DOUBT IT'S MUCH OF A COMFORT TO YOU THAT YOU WERE BEATEN BY A WOMAN RATHER THAN A BOY
YOU'RE LYING... YOU'RE...
YOU KNOW IT'S THE TRUTH, SIR EDMUND.
SHIVA ONLY WANTED YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN THE WORLD
SHE WAS SATISFIED TO LEAVE YOU BROKEN
NO.. YOU LIE.
YOU LIE!
UNNH!
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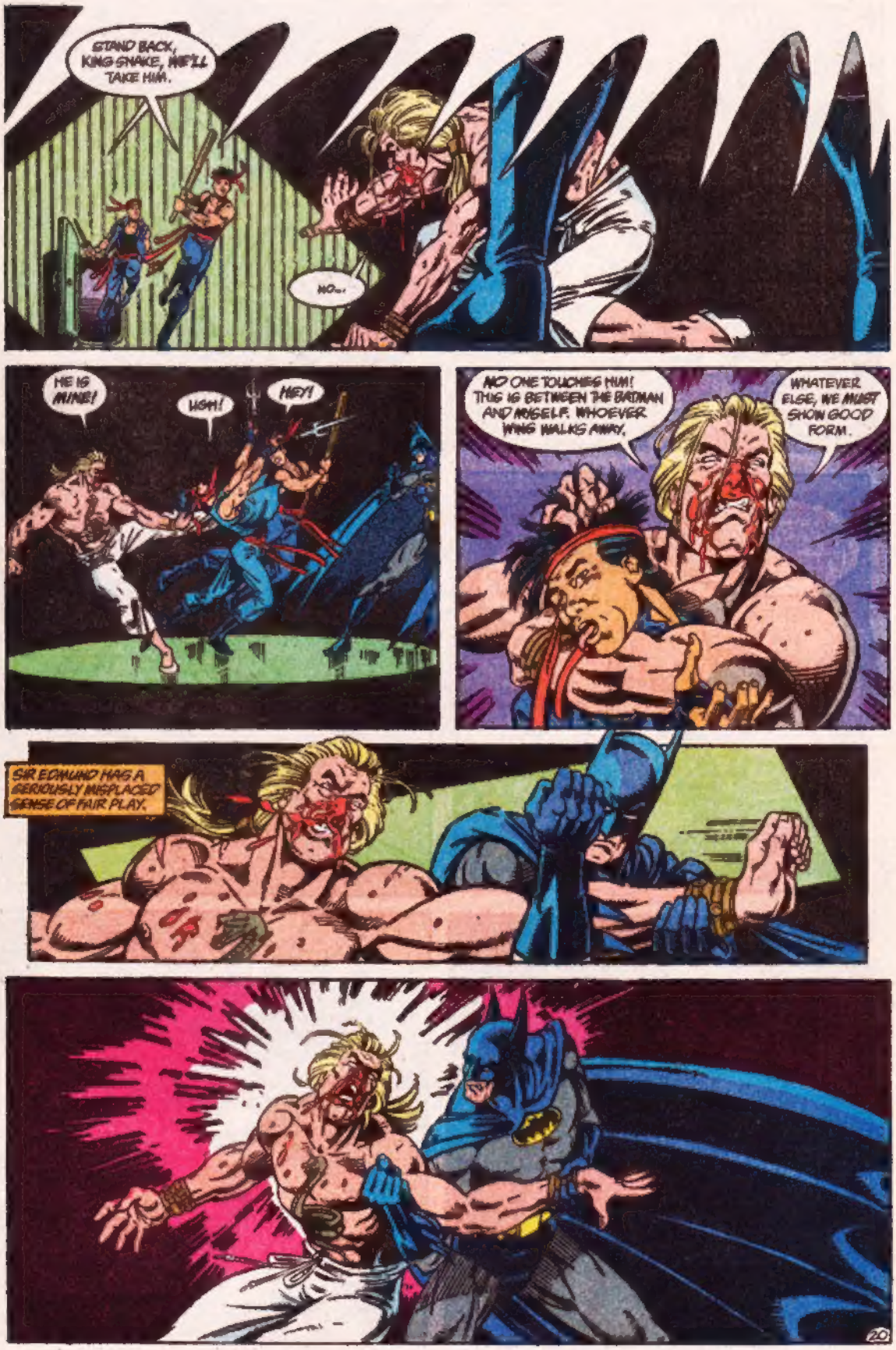
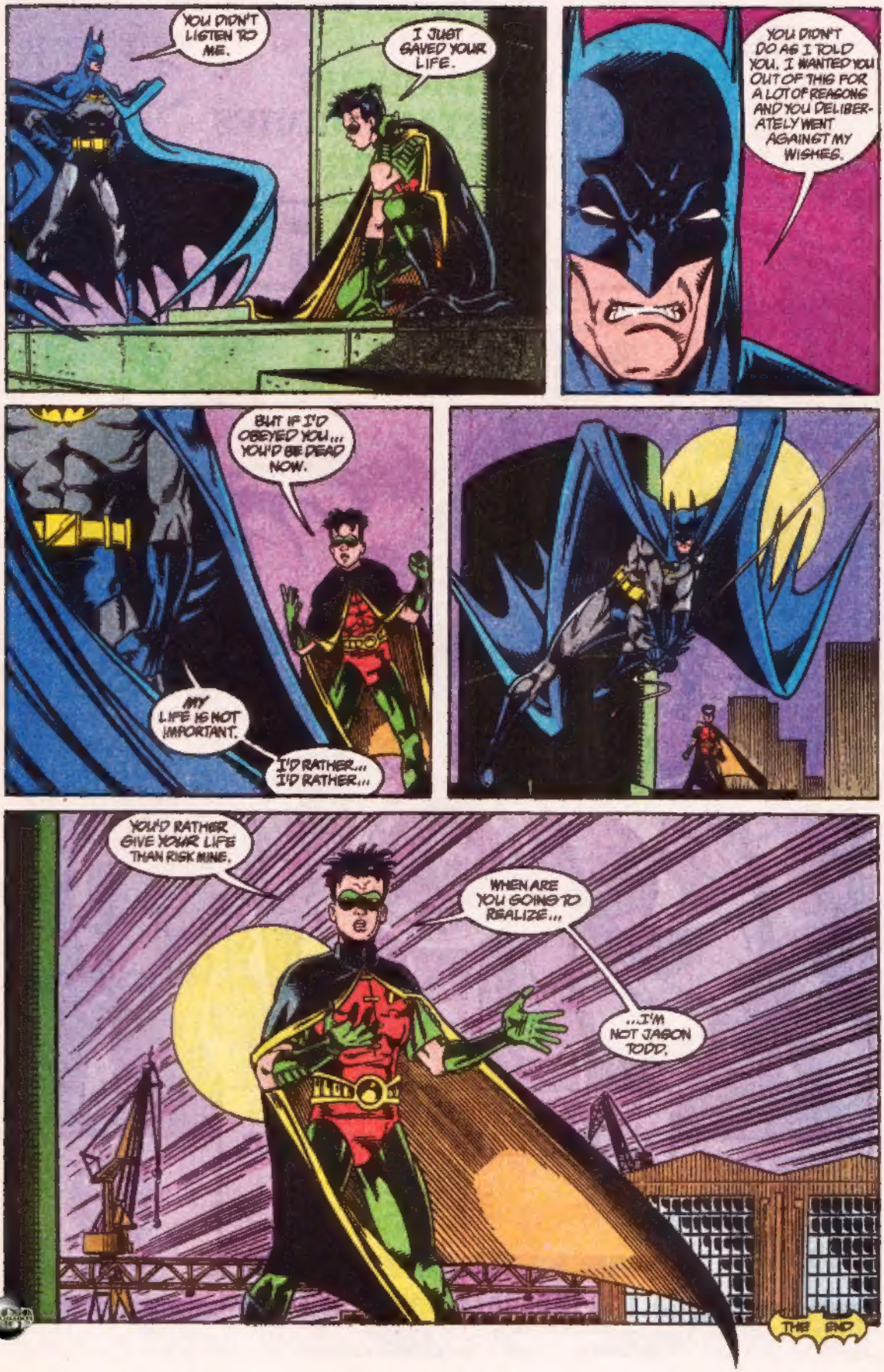

STAND BACK, KING SNAKE, HE'LL TAKE HIM.
HE IS MINE!
UGH!
HEY!
NO ONE TOUCHES HIM! THIS IS BETWEEN THE BATMAN AND MYSELF. WHOEVER WINS WALKS AWAY.
WHATEVER ELSE, WE MUST SHOW GOOD FORM.
SIR EDMUND HAS A SERIOUSLY MISPLACED SENSE OF FAIR PLAY.

I WILL NOT FIGHT TO THE DEATH.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WON'T FIGHT TO WIN.
VIIP
VIIP
VIIP
DRAG SIR EDMUND AWAY, BOYS!
AND YOU FREEZE RIGHT THERE, BAT. I'M LOADED WITH TEFLON SLUGS SO THE KEVLAR PLAYSUIT WON'T HELP MUCH.
MAYBE IT'S BEST IF WE PUT YOU OUT OF SIR EDMUND'S MISERY.
JUST THE SLIGHTEST PULL...
21

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT, LYNX.
UNNH!
YOU!
I SWORE I WOULD KILL YOU THE NEXT TIME WE MET!
BUT YOU PICKED THE MOST AWKWARD TIME TO ARRIVE.
OOF!
NEXT TIME, BOY!
MAN, WHOEVER COINED THE PHRASE "HITS LIKE A GIRL," NEVER RAN INTO HER.


YOU DIDN'T LISTEN TO ME.
I JUST SAVED YOUR LIFE.
YOU DIDN'T DO AS I TOLD YOU. I WANTED YOU OUT OF THIS FOR A LOT OF REASONS AND YOU DELIBERATELY WENT AGAINST MY WISHES.
BUT IF I'D OBEYED YOU... YOU'D BE DEAD NOW.
MY LIFE IS NOT IMPORTANT.
I'D RATHER... I'D RATHER...
YOU'D RATHER GIVE YOUR LIFE THAN RISK MINE.
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO REALIZE...
...I'M NOT JASON TODD.
THE END